

Remarks

In an office action dated December 2, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-35. Claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 36 and 37 are new. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 16, 22, 28, 29, 31, and 35 have been amended. As such, Claims 1-8, 11, and 14-37 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-11, 15-22, 24-27, and 29-34 under Section 102 citing U.S. Patent 5,974,234 issued to Levine. The Examiner specifically addressed the rejections of Claims 1-8, and 15. The Examiner rejected Claims 9-11, 16-22, 24-27, and 29-34 making the following blanket statements.

- "Claims 9-11 are rejected on the same basis as Claims 1-6."
- "Claims 16-21 are rejected on the same basis as Claims 1-11."
- "Claims 22, 24-26 are rejected on the same basis as Claims 1-11 and Claims 16-21."
- "Claims 29-34 are rejected on the same basis as Claims 16-21."

The Examiners basis for rejecting Claims 9-11, 16-22, 24-26, and 29-34 is not clear and gives the Applicants little if any substantive basis for responding. If, in light of the following remarks, the Examiner chooses to sustain the rejections, the Applicant request that the Examiner take the time to clearly explain the rejections.

Claims 1-6 and 36: Claim 1 is directed to a method for representing production devices on a network. As amended, Claim 1 includes the following combination of elements.

1. hosting an interface for one or more production devices, each interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a target document;

2. providing the interface for a selected one of the production devices to a client upon receipt from the client of a production request for the target document; and
3. managing the production of the target document for the selected production device using production options selected through the interface.

To summarize, Claim 1 requires, upon receipt of a production request for a target document, the provision of an interface having controls for selecting production options for a selected production device and then managing the production of the target document for that production device using production options selected through that interface.

The Examiner asserts that these elements are taught by Levine at col. 10, lines 45-55; col. 4, lines 55-65; col. 13, lines 5-20; and col. 8, lines 55-65.

The Examiner did not state which of these sections of Levine relate to which elements of Claim 1. The Examiner's position is flawed as Levine does not teach or suggest providing an interface upon receipt of a production request for a target document in the manner required by Claim 1. Levine also fails to teach or suggest managing the production of the target document using production options selected through the interface in the manner required by Claim 1.

Instead, Levine teaches a proxy server (107A) that can provide a client with a web page containing information regarding a printer. Levine. Col. 10, lines 22-57 and col. 13, lines 21. That information can include "site settable" information for the printer and a job queue. Levine, col. 10, lines 50-57. Based on user input entered through the provided web page, the proxy server directs job management commands. Levine, col. 10, line 58 through col. 11, line 5. Job management commands regarding jobs in a print queue. Levine's job management commands are limited to commands that affect jobs already in a queue. These include commands for holding and releasing a job, canceling a job, and moving a job within the queue. Levine. Col. 14, lines 45-49 and col. 15, line 63 through col. 16, line 33.

Simply stated, Levine mentions nothing of providing an interface upon receipt of a production request for a target document, nor does Levine teach managing the target document using production options selected through the interface. For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is felt to distinguish over Levine. Claims 2-6 and 36 are also felt to distinguish over Levine based at least on their dependency from Claim 1.

Claim 7: Claim 7 is directed to a method for representing production devices on a network. As amended, Claim 7 includes the following combination of elements.

1. detecting new production devices connected to the network;
2. using production logic for each detected device, generating an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for and directing production of a document on that detected production device;
3. hosting the generated interface for each production device;
4. providing the interface for a particular production device to a client upon receipt from the client of a production request for a target document; and
5. managing the production of the target document for the particular production device using production options selected through the interface.

Claim 7 requires providing an interface upon receipt of a production request for a target document and then managing the production of the target document using production options selected through the interface. As made clear above with respect to Claim 1, Levine does not teach these elements. For at least these reasons, Claim 7 is felt to distinguish over Levine.

Claims 8-15: Claim 8 is directed to a method for managing electronic document production over a computer network. As amended, Claim 8 includes the following combination of elements.

1. a proxy service receiving a production request;
2. the proxy service, returning an interface having user accessible controls for identifying a target document and for selecting production options for the target document;
3. the proxy service receiving identification of a target document and production options selected through the user interface; and

4. the proxy service managing production of the identified target document for the production device using production options selected through the interface.

Levine mentions nothing of providing a user interface that includes controls for identifying a target document, nor does Levine teach managing production of an identified target document for the production device using production options selected through that interface. For at least these reasons, Claim 8 is felt to distinguish over Levine. Claims 11, 14, and 15 are also felt to distinguish over Levine based at least on their dependency from Claim 8.

Claims 16-21 and 37: Claim 16 is directed to a computer program product for managing electronic document production over a computer network. As amended, the product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for the following:

1. receiving, from a client, a production request for a production device for a target document;
2. in response to the request, returning to the client an interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document;
3. managing the production of the target document using production options selected through the interface.

As above with respect to Claim 1, Levine mentions nothing of returning a user interface in response to a production request for a target document where the user interface includes controls for selecting production options for the target document. Levine also does not teach managing production of a target document using production options selected through that interface. For at least these reasons, Claim 16 is felt to distinguish over Levine. Claims 17-21 and 37 are also felt to distinguish over Levine based at least on their dependency from Claim 16.

Claims 22-27: Claim 22 is directed to a system for representing production devices on a network. As amended, Claim 22 includes the following combination of elements:

1. a database containing production logic for one or more production devices, the production logic for each production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options;
2. an interface generator operable to access production logic for a production device in the database and, following receipt of a production request for a target document, to serve an interface for the production device, the interface, being generated according to the accessed production logic, having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document; and
3. a production engine, in electronic communication with the interface generator, the production engine operable to manage production of the target document for the production device using production options selected through the interface.

The Examiner improperly rejected Claim 22 asserting that it describes a system with substantially the same limitations as Claim 1-11 and 16-21. Claims 1-11 are method claims and Claims 16-21 are computer product claims. Claim 22 is directed to a system and specifically requires a database, an interface generator, and a production engine as set out above. None of Claims 1-11 and 16-21 recites a database, an interface generator, and a production engine. As such the Examiner cannot properly reject Claim 22 citing the Examiner's basis for rejecting Claims 1-11 and 16-21.

Nonetheless, Levine simply fails to teach system components capable of accessing and using production logic that includes data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options. Moreover, Levine fails to teach a production engine that is operable to manage production

of a target document using production options selected through an interface generated using the production logic.

For at least these reasons, Claim 22 is felt to distinguish over Levine. Claims 23-27 are also felt to distinguish over Levine based at least on their dependency from Claim 22.

Claims 29-34: Claim 35 is directed to a system for managing electronic document production over a computer network. As amended Claim 35 includes the following combination of elements.

1. one or more production devices;
2. a client operable to identify a target document, select one of the one or more production devices, and direct a production request to the selected production device;
3. a proxy service in electronic communication with the client and the production device, the proxy service operable to return, in response to receiving a production request, to the client an interface for selecting production options for the selected production device and to manage the production of the target document for the selected production device using production options selected through the interface.

The Examiner improperly rejected Claim 29 asserting that it describes a system with substantially the same limitations as Claim 1-11 and 16-21. Claims 1-11 are method claims and Claims 16-21 are computer product claims. Claim 29 is directed to a system and specifically requires a production device, a client, and a proxy service as set out above. None of Claims 1-11 and 16-21 recites a proxy service. As such the Examiner cannot properly reject Claim 29 citing the Examiner's basis for rejecting Claims 1-11 and 16-21.

Nonetheless, Levine simply fails to teach a proxy service that is operable, in response to receiving a production request, to return to a client an interface

for selecting production options for a selected production device for the selected production device. Moreover, Levine fails to teach a proxy service that is operable to manage the production of the target document for the selected production device using production options selected through the interface.

For at least these reasons, Claim 29 is felt to distinguish over Levine. Claims 30-34 are also felt to distinguish over Levine based at least on their dependency from Claim 29.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 12-14, 23, 28, and 35 under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Levine in view of citing U.S. Patent 6,757,071 issued to Goodman.

Claims 12-14: Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled. Claim 14 depends from Claim 8 and includes all the limitation of that base claim. For the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so is Claim 14.

Claim 23: Claim 23 depends from Claim 22 and includes all the limitation of that base claim. For the same reasons Claim 22 is patentable, so is Claim 23.

Claim 28: Claim 28 is directed to a system for representing production devices on a network. As amended, Claim 28 includes the following combination of elements.

1. a database containing production logic for one or more production devices, the production logic for each production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options;;
2. a device locator operable to detect and identify new devices present on the network;
3. an update service operable to acquire the production logic for each of the detected devices and update the database with the acquired production logic;

4. an interface generator operable to access the production logic for a production device in the database and serve an interface for the production device, the interface being generated to include user accessible controls for selecting production options for a document as specified by the production logic for that production device;
5. a plan generator operable to merge the document with production options selected through the interface; and
6. a device driver operable to deliver the production plan to the production device.

The Examiner rejected Claim 28 asserting that Levine teaches the first four elements while admitting that Levine does not teach a plan generator. For this, the Examiner relies on Goodman. The Examiner did not even address the requirement of a device driver. As above with respect to Claim 22, Levine simply fails to teach system components (an interface generator) capable of accessing and using production logic that includes data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options. For at least this reason, Claim 28 is felt to distinguish over Levine and Goodman.

Claim 35: Claim 35 is directed to a system for managing electronic document production over a computer network. As amended, Claim 35 includes the following combination of elements.

1. one or more production devices;
2. a database containing production logic for one or more production devices, the production logic for a given production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options for that production device;
3. a device locator operable to detect and identify new devices present on the network;

4. an update service operable to acquire the production logic for each of the detected devices and update the database with the acquired production logic;
5. a client operable to identify a target document, select one of the one or more production devices, and direct a production request to the selected production device;
6. an interface generator operable to access the production logic for the selected production device in the database and serve an interface for the selected production device, the interface being generated to include user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document as specified by the production logic for that production device;
7. a plan generator operable to acquire the target document and merge it with production options selected through the interface forming a production plan; and
8. a device driver operable deliver the production plan to the production device.


The Examiner rejected Claim 35 asserting that Levine teaches each element except for a plan generator. As for that element, the Examiner relies on Goodman. The Examiner did not even address the requirement of a device driver. As above with respect to Claim 22 and 28, Levine simply fails to teach system components (an interface generator) capable of accessing and using production logic that includes data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options. For at least this reason, Claim 35 is felt to distinguish over Levine and Goodman.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8, 11, and 14-37 define allowable subject matter. The

Examiner is requested to indicate the allowability of all claims in the application and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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March 3, 2005